(iii) ECBs exceeding USD 50 million would be permitted for the following end uses only (a) Financing import of equipment and (b) Foreign exchange needs of infrastructure projects. Under the old ECB guidelines there was no end use restruction for ECBs except investment in capital market.

(iv) No financial intermediary (*viz.* a bank, DFI, or NBFC) will be either allowed acess to ECBs or to provide guarantees. However, this will not apply to Textile and Steel restructuring packages which have already been announced by the Government in consultation with RBI. Under the old ECB guidelines, there was no such restriction.

(v) ECBs pending utilization would need to be parked overseas. Under the old ECB guidelines, ECB raised were required to be utilized/ brought into the country at the earliest.

Payment of interest by investors of UTI

2231. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 906 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th July, 2003 and state:

(a) the number of cases in which Unit Trust of India Investor Services Limited has paid interest @ 5.5 per cent per annum to the investors for delayed payment to US-64 'A' unit holders, as advised by SUUTI; and

(b) if not, whether such payment has been made, the reasons therefore and the action taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Payment of service tax in Karnataka

2232. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of persons/organisation liable to pay service tax in Karnataka;

(b) out of which, how many registrations have so far been done;

(c) how many services are coming under service tax in Karnataka;

(d) the amount collected by way of service tax in Karnataka during 2003-04; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to reach the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (e) In respect of 58 taxable services notified, there are 20, 435 registrants for the Service Tax in Karnataka. An amount of Rs. 272.48 crore has been collected as Service Tax during 2003-2004 (upto November, 2003). The steps being taken to increase the assessee base include Surveys, awareness programmes by way of Open Houses, Seminars, Workshops and also advertisements through print and electronic media.

Pending enforcement cases

2233. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Enforcement cases are pending with the department;

(b) if so, how many such cases are pending for the last three years;

(c) what is the total value of evasion of taxes on account of these cases; and

(d) what steps are being taken to speed up the disposal of cases and give punishment to the evaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Enforcement under the Department of Revenue is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA) (since repealed) and Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA).

There are 8582 cases pending for adjudication under FERA and 719 cases under FEMA as on 30.11.2003.